

## JENISON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### January 16, 2020 Board Minutes

Present: Ken Williams, Yvonne Williams, Gene Kort, Linda Droog, Ruth Lowing, Mary Raper, Barb Semeyn, Ronnie Aungst, Becky Steele, Ron Cheyne

#### **Association/Museum Business**

January Agenda: Approved as presented.

November Minutes: Approved as written

Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented Question arose regarding River Boat Ride for this coming year, is it already scheduled?

Acquisition's Report: Barb reported no new acquisitions have come in. Feb. plan is to go through the turret bedroom closet and check on all items.

Holiday Open Houses: It was reported we had 79 visitors at our Dec. open house, Ken hosted a tour with the group from Zeeland historical group of 10-15. Our Jan. open house missed some sign-ins but recorded 47. We think there were more like 55-65 visitors. **Ronnie totaled visitors for the year 2019 at 987.**

Cleaning: Linda will be ready to start some extra/special cleaning starting in Feb.

Maintenance Report: Ken reported that the tape applied to the cracked pipe in the attic is still leaking some and our water problem in the basement continues whenever the water table is high in the area. The chimney in the reception area continues to show evidence of deterioration and we discussed some possible solutions. We have been working on checking on the light outages in the attic and the Griffin Pest person came in for a walk thru with Ken this week.

Township Representative's Report: Becky reported that the Mexican restaurant Los Amigos has changed ownership and a new liquor license has been issued. The board has been discussing possibilities of getting sidewalks along Port Sheldon from Alward School to 48<sup>th</sup>. The best solution might be to widen the shoulder and add a paved bike/pedestrian lane. The Sewer Gas smell continues to be an issue at the intersection of Main and Chicago Dr. A Biofilter will need to be installed but has been delayed.

Audio History Project: Yvonne asked for volunteers willing to assist with listening and identifying subjects covered in each tape. Yvonne has gotten a good start and Liz is willing to continue and help organize the information, but there are 177 tapes and less than 50 are done. Contact Liz or Yvonne if you can assist.

Local History Room: Mary shared an update. We now have a directional sign that is posted on the day that the room is manned. We were excited to have our first visitor requesting help with genealogy research. We will have laptop computers available to us during open hours but only the library computers have access to Ancestry.com for now. We are working on ideas of some wall décor/historical pictures or maps, but we will be receiving our archived materials back from the state of MI sometime soon, which will also be housed here most likely. Discussion also followed about a glass display case that is available and if we could use it for displays in the hallway. The main problem is it is not locked.

#### Curator/Historian's Report:

- James Mclirath, a descendant of Mary Jenison Sweet stopped in for a visit and sent us their family tree information
- Maggie Brown, an early teacher in our area, is related to John Otto a former Jenison HS teacher. John shared information on her.
- We have had a recent request about our 1959 Plat Map which Ken has located.
- "Save the Tiffany House" presentation by Ken and Gene recently happened at Sunset Manor. It was a great program and enjoyed by many.
- Upcoming Talks: March 10 "Jenison Churches" at the GT Connections

April 14 "Jenison History" at the Library

Sept. 15 "Riverboats and Landings" at the Library

Oct. 13 "Jenison History" at the GT Connections

2020 Job Assignments: Motion made and seconded to accept all board positions remain as is in 2019. Motion carries. It was suggested that we **add the position of Local History Room** with Mary and Ronnie accepting the positions.

History of the Library: Our next special display will start March 3. Discussion followed as to what we would have on display. Ken and Ronnie shared their ideas.

### **New Business**

Handicap Accessibility: Gene suggested revisiting the options of making our first floor accessible to the handicap and asked to have it added to next month's agenda. We do have funds available to make this happen. Yvonne volunteered to start the process with contacting Dan Carlton.